THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG-WAR): (a) to (c) A fire occurred on 30.10.2001 in well number 345 in the oil field of Ankleshwar Project of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) located in Bharuch in the State of Gujarat due to attempted pilferage by some miscreants. The Crisis Management Team of ONGC is well equipped with manpower and materials for dousing well-fires at a short notice and the fire at well No. 345 was controlled within 10 days. While three persons died in the fire, allegedly an employee of ONGC was also involved in the pilferage. The total loss, including expenditure imcurred in controlling the fire and reviving the well, is estimated to be around Rs. 5 crores.

Prices of Petroleum Products

2990. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products were raised recently;

(b) if so, the magnitude of the increase in each case;

(c) the reasons for increasing the prices of petroleum products; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to reduce operational costs so as to provide benefits to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG-WAR): (a) to (c) The Government have not hiked the basic ex-storage point prices of petroleum products recently. However, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG have gone up with effect from the midnight of 9th/10 November, 20Q1 due to the increase in dealers'/distributors' commission. The dealers' commission on petrol and diesel was increased by Rs. 135 KL and Rs. 88/KL respectively. The distributors' commission on LPG (domestic) was increased by Rs. 1.02/cylinder.

(d) Various steps taken by oil companies to reduce operational cost include rationalization of manpower, upgradation of technology,

energy conservation, reduction in input cost, improvement in productivity etc.

Sharing of Production Level payment on CBM with Gujarat

2991. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT:
DR. A. K. PATEL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented for sharing production level payment (PLP) under Coal Bed Methane (CBM) on 50:50 basis with Government of India;

(b) whether Government have* considered State Government's proposal positively;

(c) if so, the level at which matter is pending for decision at present; and

(d) by when, the formal approval will be communicated to State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) to (d) Government of Gujarat has requested for sharing of Production Linked Payment (PLP) and the commercial discovery bonus in the ratio of 50:50 and their request is under the consideration of the Government of India. After the decsion is taken, the same will be communicated, for which no time limit can be fixed.

Exploration of CBM in Gujarat

2992. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large reserve of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) have been found in Gujarat and if so, the total area in which